

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 2001P17780US

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-10, 15-19 and 21, 24, 25 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 10, and 18 have been amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Patent Office rejected Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 17, 18, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epps ("Epps", U.S. Patent No. 5,034,947) in view of Kline ("Kline", U.S. Patent No. 5,530,699). The Patent Office further stated claims 2, 7, 8, 15, 16, 19, 24 and 25 were obvious over Epps and Kline. (Page 6 of Office Action of November 23, 2007).

Applicant respectfully traverses. However, claims 1, 10 and 18 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 6, 14 and 23 respectively. Consequently, the rejection is now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office indicated that Claims 6, 14 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon an allowable base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Patent Office for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant wishes to seek expeditious issuance of a patent containing claims directed to subject matter found allowable by the Patent Office. However, Applicant does not acquiesce to the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 15-19, 21, 22, 24 and 25, and

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reserves the right to present claims drawn to the same or similar subject matter for consideration in a continuing application.

Applicant understood that the reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter given by the Patent Office at Page 6 of Office Action of November 23, 2007 were made in accordance with the following instruction per MPEP § 1302.14:

"The statement is not intended to necessarily state all the reasons for allowance or all the details why claims are allowed and should not be written to specifically or impliedly state that all the reasons for allowance are set forth."

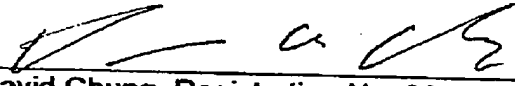
CONCLUSION

The application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. In the event the indication of allowability is withdrawn, applicants reserve the right to amend the claims back to the original form for further prosecution, without prejudice, disclaimer or estoppel. In the event that issues arise in the application that may readily be resolved via telephone, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned Attorney at (408) 492-5336 to facilitate prosecution of the application.

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